

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1, 12, 20, 23, 24, 27, 30, 33, and 36 and add new Claims 38 and 39  
5 as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A sensor assembly comprising:  
at least one sensor adapted to generate first data; and  
at least one processing entity in data communication with said sensor and adapted to  
10 process said first data to produce second data, said second data having at least one desired effect  
associated therewith;

wherein said desired effect comprises the intentional reduction in the visual clarity of the  
second data when said second data is displayed by apparatus adapted for viewing of said second  
data; and

15 wherein said processing comprises permutation of said first data.

2. (Previously presented) The assembly of Claim 1, wherein said at least one sensor  
comprises an optical-band semiconductor camera.

3. (Previously presented) The assembly of Claim 1, wherein said at least one sensor  
comprises an IR-band sensor.

20 4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously presented) The assembly of Claim 1, wherein said at least one desired  
effect comprises selective deletion of portions of the field of view of said at least one sensor when  
said second data is displayed by apparatus adapted for viewing of same.

6. (Previously presented) The assembly of Claim 1, wherein said at least one desired  
25 effect comprises selective permutation of the order of portions of the field of view of said at least  
one sensor when said second data is displayed by apparatus adapted for viewing of same.

7. (Previously presented) The assembly of Claim 1, further comprising a low-cost  
sensor housing within which at least a portion of said at least one sensor is disposed, wherein said at  
least one sensor comprises a low cost B/W camera, and said at least one processing entity is  
30 disposed external of said housing, such that said sensor assembly is low cost as a whole and hence  
disposable in nature.

8. (Previously presented) The assembly of Claim 7, further comprising a base element adapted for mounting said housing thereto, said base element containing said at least one processing entity.

9. (Previously presented) The assembly of Claim 1, further comprising a low-cost sensor housing within which at least a portion of said at least one sensor is disposed, wherein said at least one sensor comprises a low cost B/W camera, and said at least one processing entity comprises a low-cost integrated circuit disposed within said housing, such that said sensor assembly is low cost as a whole and hence disposable in nature.

10. (Previously presented) The assembly of Claim 1, wherein said at least one processing entity comprises a digital processor having an embedded memory and a plurality of computer code running thereon, said computer code being adapted to provide said processing of said first data.

11. (Previously presented) The assembly of Claim 1, wherein said at least one processing entity further comprises an ADC adapted to render said first data in the digital domain.

12. (Currently amended) Covert security sensor apparatus, comprising:  
at least one camera adapted to generate video signals relating to at least one monitored location;

wherein said ~~apparatus~~ camera is configured to look like a passive infrared security sensor such that the presence of said at least one camera is not readily expected by or discernable by inhabitants of said location, thereby providing said covertness.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 12, further comprising a passive IR (PIR) sensor.

15. (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 12, further comprising:  
at least one processing entity in data communication with said camera and adapted to process said video signals to produce processed video data for viewing; and  
at least one distribution entity adapted to distribute said processed data to a remote location.

16. (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 12, further comprising:  
at least one processing entity in data communication with said camera and adapted to process said video signals to produce processed video data for viewing, said processed video data comprising an altered representation of said signals.

17. (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 16 wherein said at least one processing entity comprises a digital processor with associated memory, and signal processing algorithm running thereon.

18. (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claims 17, further comprising a data interface adapted to transfer at least portions of said processed video data to a remote monitoring location.

19. (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 12, wherein said configuring of said apparatus comprises:

providing a housing which appears as that associated with another type of sensor; and

providing a discrete aperture within said housing to accommodate said at least one camera.

20. (Currently amended) A security sensor, comprising:

at least one camera adapted to generate video data relating to at least one monitored location;

at least one processing entity in data communication with said camera and adapted to process said video data to produce processed video data for viewing at a remote location; and

at least one distribution entity adapted to distribute said processed data to said remote location;

wherein said processing of said video data by said processing entity is purposefully configured to preclude processed data allows viewing of only certain features of said monitored location or its inhabitants portions of the field of view of said at least one camera.

21. – 22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently amended) A quick-change, low-cost sensor assembly adapted to permit removal of a sensor and replacement with another identical or different sensor, comprising:

a sensor element having:

(i) A low-cost molded sensor housing;

(ii) at least one low-cost sensor disposed at least partly within said housing; and

(iii) at least one first electrical interface adapted to transmit electrical power and information signals to and from said at least one sensor; and

a support element adapted to support and removably mate with said sensor element, said support element comprising at least one second electrical interface comprising electronic circuitry

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adapted to transmit electrical power and information signals to and from said at least one first interface;

wherein said at least one first and second electrical interfaces are adapted for rapid separation from each other incident with said removal of said sensor element from said support element.

24. (Currently amended) A quick-change, covert sensor assembly, comprising:  
a sensor element having:

- (i) at least one optical sensor; and
- (ii) at least one first electrical interface adapted to transmit electrical power and information signals to and from said at least one sensor; and

a support element adapted to support and removably mate with said sensor element, said support element comprising at least one second electrical interface comprising electronic circuitry adapted to transmit electrical power and information signals to and from said at least one first interface;

wherein said at least one first and second electrical interfaces are adapted for rapid separation from each other incident with said removal of said sensor element from said support element; and

wherein said sensor assembly is adapted to appear as a non-visual sensor in order to deceive individuals for which optical monitoring is desired.

25. – 26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently amended) High privacy sensor apparatus, comprising:  
at least one sensor adapted to generate first data; and

at least one processing entity in data communication with said sensor and adapted to process said first data to produce second data, said at least one processing entity comprising a computer program comprising algorithms particularly adapted to ~~intentionally alter without user intervention~~ process said first data ~~sufficiently such~~ such that video derived therefrom ~~may be displayed, without user intervention, with~~ is sufficiently reduced in resolution or content such that details of individuals being monitored by said apparatus are not discernable.

28. (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 27, wherein said details comprise the facial identity of said individuals.

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29. (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 27, wherein said apparatus is further adapted to operate in a mode whereby said processing of said first data is altered so as to increase said resolution at least temporarily.

30. (Currently amended) A method of operating security monitoring apparatus disposed at a first location, the method comprising:

providing at least one sensor having signal processing apparatus;

processing raw image first data collected by said at least one sensor using said apparatus to produce ~~second data, said second data having at least one attribute associated therewith~~ censored image data, said censored image data comprising footage wherein anonymity of legitimate inhabitants of said location is protected under all operational circumstances;

monitoring said first location using said ~~second data~~ censored image data; and selectively, and responsive to a first indication, monitoring said first location using said ~~first data~~ raw image data.

31. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 30, wherein said act of monitoring is conducted at a second location, and said first indication comprises an alarm signal generated at least in part at said first location.

32. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 30, wherein said act of processing to produce second data having at least one attribute comprises processing to reducing the resolution of video generated from said second data sufficiently that the privacy of individuals disposed at said first location is maintained.

33. (Currently amended) A remote security monitoring system, comprising:  
sensors disposed at one or more locations to be monitored;  
at least one processing entity located within said sensors and adapted to process raw data from the sensors to produce processed data, said processed data having at least one desired attribute not present in said raw data;

at least one remote monitoring entity adapted to utilize the processed data; ~~and~~  
a network interface adapted to transfer said processed data from said processing entity to said remote entity; and

at least one module adapted to, in response to a signal, cause said network interface to discontinue transfer of said processed data and begin transfer of said raw data to said remote entity.

34. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 33, wherein said at least one attribute

comprises reduced visual resolution during display.

35. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 34, further comprising a signal interface;

wherein said system further comprises an operating mode wherein said processing of said raw data to produce said desired attribute is selectively not performed based on data transmitted over said signal interface.

36. (Currently amended) A sensor assembly comprising:

at least one sensor adapted to generate first data; and

at least one processing entity in data communication with said sensor and adapted to process said first data to produce second data, said second data having intentionally reduced visual clarity when said second data is displayed by apparatus adapted for viewing of said second data;

wherein said processing comprises selective deletion of certain portions of said first data.

37. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 30, wherein said act of processing to produce second data having reduced visual clarity comprises processing to reducing the resolution of video generated from said second data sufficiently that the privacy of individuals disposed at said first location is protected before said second data is transmitted from said sensor assembly to another location.

38. (New) The apparatus of Claim 27, wherein said processing comprises processing specifically configured to intentionally reduce said resolution or content.

39. (New) A security sensor, comprising:

at least one camera adapted to generate video data relating to at least one monitored location;

at least one processing entity in data communication with said camera and adapted to process said video data to produce processed video data for viewing at a remote location; and

at least one distribution entity adapted to distribute said processed data to said remote location;

wherein said processing of said video data is configured to preclude viewing of certain features of said monitored location or its inhabitants without affecting the viewing of other features of said monitored location.